

Message

**From:** R7News [R7-Web@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/30/2020 1:41:02 PM  
**To:** Chu, Ed [Chu.Ed@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** R7@Work Weekly

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## R7@Work Weekly Recap

October 30, 2020

Read more here: [Nonresponsive internal web address / Ex. 6](#)

(You must be connected to the OneEPA VPN in order to access the R7@Work intranet site.)

Two Missouri Community-Based Organizations Each Awarded  
\$120K in EPA Funding to Address Environmental and Public  
Health Issues in Underserved Communities

## News Releases from Region 07

10/28/2020

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**Environmental News**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., Oct. 28, 2020) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$2.1 million in cooperative agreements awarded to 18 organizations working to address environmental justice issues in their communities. Each organization will receive \$120,000 over two years under the EPA Office of Environmental Justice's Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program.

This program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups, as they develop and implement community-driven solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. Two organizations in EPA Region 7 have been awarded funding.

"We are pleased to support the work of the Heartland Conservation Alliance and Beyond Housing Inc. These two projects represent strong examples of Region 7's support of capacity building and meaningful engagement of communities who are directly impacted by pollution," said EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford. "The collaborative problem-solving cooperative agreements for which we have announced funding today will allow these communities to focus on improving their air and water quality, while emphasizing partnerships and youth involvement. We are looking forward to working with these organizations to achieve tangible and sustainable results."

## Cooperative Agreements are being awarded to the following organizations in EPA Region 7:

**Heartland Conservation Alliance**, Kansas City, Missouri, will receive \$120,000 for the project *Action for a Healthy Blue River Watershed: Heart of the City Assessment and Restoration*. This project will work with underserved community residents of Kansas City, who experience extreme poverty and disproportionate environmental health impacts from an unhealthy and polluted watershed, to design a reuse plan for 40 acres of vacant and forested land. This project aims to increase residents' access to multiple benefits of green infrastructure; reduce illegal dumping; improve home values; and increase the natural functions of the watershed and urban canopy.

**Beyond Housing Inc.**, St. Louis, will receive \$120,000 for the project *24:1 Clear the Air*. This project will educate municipal leadership and the general community about the links between air quality, the urban tree canopy and asthma. The 24:1 Community is comprised of low-income, minority-majority municipalities in North St. Louis County. A canopy assessment will be conducted to inform the community about opportunities for tree canopy improvements. The project aims to increase knowledge of residents and municipal tree boards; increase forestry knowledge of interns and volunteers; increase canopy coverage; change policy to improve maintenance of canopy; and decrease asthma-related hospital visits.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

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[Learn more about Environmental Justice](#)

Learn more about the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

Learn more about EPA Region 7

View all Region 7 news releases

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EPA Presents 2020 National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Awards to Federal and Missouri Agencies for Weldon Spring Superfund Site

## News Releases from Region 07

10/28/2020

Contact Information:

Ben Washburn ([washburn.ben@epa.gov](mailto:washburn.ben@epa.gov))

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### Environmental News

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., Oct. 28, 2020) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented 2020 national Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Awards to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for the innovative reuse of the Weldon Spring Superfund Site in St. Charles, Missouri. DOE is the lead federal agency responsible for the cleanup of the site, while EPA and the state of Missouri provide regulatory oversight.

"For the past three years, we have recognized the important work our federal and state agency partners have completed to clean up and reuse federal facility Superfund sites around the country," said EPA Assistant Administrator Peter Wright. "The Weldon Spring Site epitomizes the mission of the Department

of Energy's Office of Legacy Management to fulfill its post-closure responsibilities and ensure the protection of human health and the environment."

"The most important outcome at the Weldon Spring Site was cleaning up contamination to protect the surrounding community from harmful exposure," said EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford. "But also important was developing the site into a community asset where local residents can learn about the site's unique history and how they are being protected from its historical contamination. I am proud to present these awards to DOE, MDNR and MDC for their efforts at the site."

The Weldon Spring Site, comprised of a former chemical plant and quarry, has a complex history. It played a pivotal role in our nation's history and success in World War II and the Cold War. The 228-acre site is located about 25 miles west of St. Louis, and has been revitalized for beneficial reuse as a community educational center and recreational area. The Weldon Spring Interpretive Center features exhibits designed to fulfill DOE's post-closure responsibilities. The center informs and educates the public about long-term stewardship and the site's historical legacy. An important educational focus is on risk communication, showing how cleanup activities made the site safe for public use. Other redevelopment highlights include community use facilities and a natural prairie habitat that promotes wildlife conservation.

EPA has ongoing cleanup and property transfer responsibilities at 174 federal facility National Priorities List sites across the country, which are some of the largest and most complex sites within the Superfund program. The Trump administration has made the Superfund program a top priority to advance the Agency's core mission of protecting human health and the environment. EPA's Superfund Task Force is working to promote redevelopment and reuse of sites by encouraging investment in reuse outcomes. The federal facility sites receiving reuse awards serve as examples of the types of site investment that can occur at sites once owned by federal agencies.

EPA established the awards to recognize the teams who have supported the reuse and restoration of federal facility sites through outstanding efforts to ensure that sites are remediated to promote continued property use or support a site reuse, as well as provide educational opportunities about how the awardees' sites were remediated and reused to serve as examples to other site remediators.

The awards are divided into four categories: National Priorities List (NPL) Sites, Non-NPL Cleanup, NPL Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), and Non-NPL BRAC.

Learn more about the awards and cleanups at federal facilities.

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Learn more about EPA Region 7

View all Region 7 news releases

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## EPA Scientific Integrity Official Office Hours

**The Agency's Scientific Integrity Official, Dr. Francesca Grifo, has established virtual office hours to answer your questions.**

Office hours are offered Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST. Feel free to contact her via email ([grifo.francesca@epa.gov](mailto:grifo.francesca@epa.gov)) or cell phone (202-657-8575) to enable virtual connections.

**Learn more about Dr. Grifo**

Originator: Cecilia M Tapia

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**Nonresponsive guidance announcement / Ex. 5**

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CFC Cause of the Week: Arts & Culture

**CFC Cause of the Week: Arts & Culture**

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the official workplace giving campaign of the federal government, allowing federal employees to pledge monetary support and volunteer time to approved charities. Thanks to the generosity of federal employees and retirees, the CFC is one of the largest and most successful fundraising campaigns in the world, raising more than \$8.4 billion since its inception in 1961. This year's campaign runs from Sept. 21, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021.

***“Art is not always about pretty things. It’s about who we are, what happened to us, and how our lives are affected.” – Elizabeth Broun, director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum***

The arts are a pathway into the soul of society. Whether through painting, music, film, writing, or some other form of expression, the arts are a vessel for celebrating cultures, creativity and imagination. They are a glimpse into history, a reflection of our present, and a hope for the future. The arts find a way to support us, especially during dark times.

Studies have shown a correlation between enrollment in arts courses and higher SAT verbal and math scores, yet many children in the U.S. do not have the resources to experience arts and culture.

Due to funding shortages, many communities are facing challenges in preserving their culture and traditions. Arts and culture programs are a way to protect and connect to the past, as well as an investment in the future. Many CFC charities support the arts and culture through various funding initiatives. No matter what you are passionate about, there are many ways to show your love for the arts and culture through CFC charities.

***To Learn More and Show Some Love, go to: <https://heartlandcfc.givecfc.org/>***

***To find video presentations from CFC charities, visit: [CFC Charity Videos](#)***

Originator: John Smith

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## Region 7 All-hands COVID-19 Conference Call Transcript - 10/22/20

Listen to the Oct. 22 all-hands call audio below or read the transcript.

[Download the PDF](#)

## Region 7 All-hands COVID-19 Conference Call Transcript - 10/15/20

Listen to the Oct. 15 all-hands call audio below or read the transcript.

[Download the PDF](#)

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Laptop Security - Smart Card/PIV Requirement

## **R7 Smart Card Login Requirement - Please Test Your Smart Card**

**Nonresponsive internal security measures / Ex. 6**

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Originator: John Smith

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2020 Virtual Benefits Fair - Nov. 9 - Dec. 14, 2020

Register to attend the 2020 Virtual Benefits Fair to chat with carriers, review 2021 plan details, and get the information you need to help make the right decisions—in one convenient online location.

Log in anytime during the Federal Benefits Open Season, from **November 9 to December 14, 2020**. Download 2021 plan brochures, visit individual carrier booths, watch videos, and register for educational webinars.

Representatives from all participating carriers will be available to take your questions during our four live carrier chat days:

Friday, November 13, 2020

9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT)

Friday, November 20, 2020

9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT)

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT)

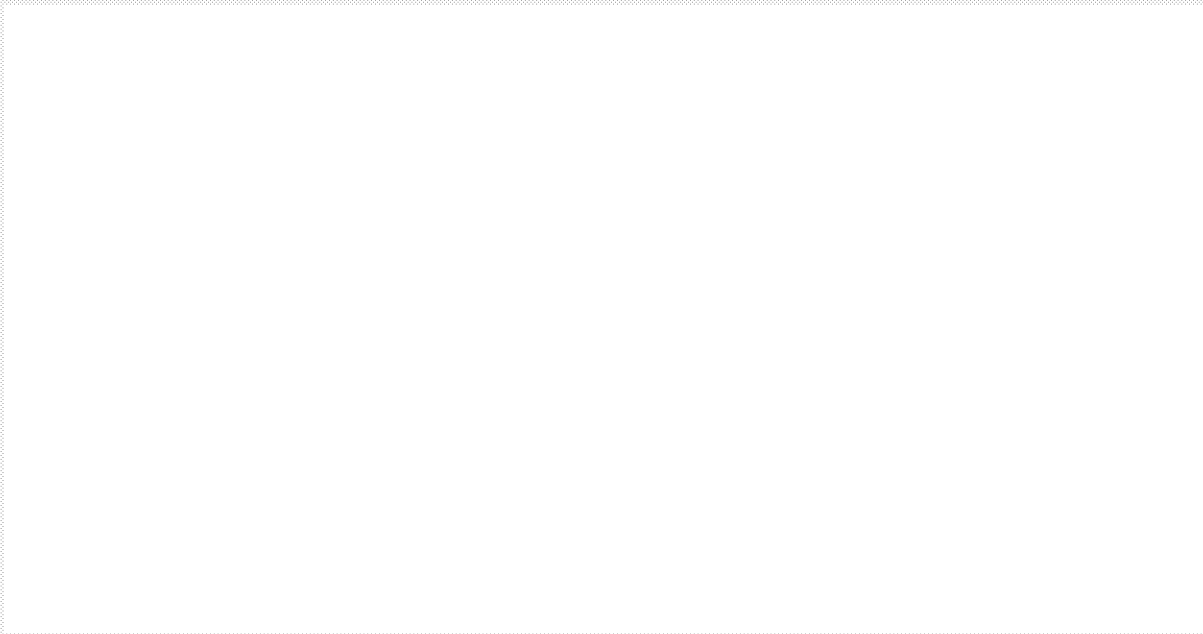
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT)

Explore your benefits in one convenient location. Learn valuable information, get answers from the experts, and visit carrier booths to shop and compare different benefit plans.

## Register Now

Originator: Yolanda Nero



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